

Appl. No. 10/664,260
Response dated May 11, 2007
Reply to Office Action of February 12, 2007.

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Listing of Pending Claims:

A listing of pending claims is provided for the Examiner's convenience. No claim amendments are being made at this time.

1. (Previously presented) An absorbent feminine care article having a longitudinal direction, a lateral direction, first and second longitudinally opposed end portions, and an intermediate portion located between said end portions, said article comprising:
a liquid-permeable cover;
a baffle; and
an absorbent body sandwiched between the cover and baffle;
wherein
said absorbent body includes an intake layer and a longitudinally asymmetric shaping layer;
said shaping layer is positioned between said cover and said baffle, and has a longitudinal shaping-layer length and a lateral shaping-layer width;
said intake layer is positioned between said cover and said shaping layer and has a longitudinal intake-layer length and a lateral intake-layer width;
said intake layer has an area extent which is smaller than an area extent of said shaping layer.
said shaping layer has first longitudinal half-length, a second longitudinal half-length, a narrow-section, a wide-section, and a transition-section;
said transition-section is located between said narrow and wide sections of the shaping layer, the transition-section having lateral side edges which interconnect lateral side edges of the narrow-section of the shaping layer with corresponding lateral side edges of the wide-section of the shaping layer;
said wide-section of the shaping layer includes a maximum lateral width of the

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shaping layer and includes a terminal end edge located in said first half-length of the shaping layer;
said narrow-section of the shaping layer includes a terminal end edge located in said second half-length of the shaping layer; and
said intake layer is longitudinally offset toward an article region which is delimited by said first half-length of the shaping layer.

2. (Original) An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said intake-layer length is smaller than said shaping-layer length, and said intake-layer width is smaller than said shaping-layer width.

3. (Original) An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said narrow-section of the shaping layer substantially avoids extending into an article region that is delimited by said first longitudinal half-length of the shaping layer.

4. (Original) An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said intake layer substantially avoids extending into a region of the article that is delimited by said narrow-section of the shaping layer.

5. (Original) An article as recited in claim 1, wherein at least about 55 % of the intake-layer length is located in an article region that is delimited by the first half-length of the shaping layer.

6. (Original) An article as recited in claim 1, wherein at least about 55 % of the area of the intake layer is located in an article region that is delimited by the first half-length of the shaping layer.

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7. (Original) An article as recited in claim 1, wherein an inboard boundary of said narrow-section of the shaping layer is delimited by an upper-limit lateral dimension of not more than about 62 mm.

8. (Original) An article as recited in claim 1, wherein an inboard boundary of said narrow-section of the shaping layer is delimited by an upper-limit lateral dimension of not more than about 98% of said maximum lateral width of the shaping layer.

9. (Original) An article as recited in claim 1 wherein an inboard boundary said wide-section of the shaping layer is delimited by a lower-limit lateral dimension of not less than about 40 mm.

10. (Original) An article as recited in claim 1 wherein an inboard boundary said wide-section of the shaping layer is delimited by a lower-limit lateral dimension of not less than about 60 % of said maximum lateral width of the shaping layer.

11..(Previously presented) An article as recited in claim 1 wherein said transition-section of the shaping layer extends between a minimum lateral dimension of said wide-section of the shaping layer, and a maximum lateral dimension of said narrow-section of the shaping layer; the shaping layer has a lower-limit lateral dimension; and the lower-limit lateral dimension of the shaping layer is located in the second half-length of the shaping layer.

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12. (Original) An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said transition-section of the shaping layer has tapering side edges that are substantially linear.

13. (Original) An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said transition-section of the shaping layer has tapering side edges that are curvilinear.

14. (Original) An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said transition-section of the shaping layer has tapering side edges, and at least a portion of each side edge is substantially outwardly concave.

15. (Original) An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said intake layer has an intake-layer area, said shaping layer has a shaping-layer area, and the entirety of said intake-layer area lies within an article region that is delimited by said shaping layer area.

16. (Original) An article as recited in claim 1, wherein a terminal end edge of said intake layer is inwardly spaced from said terminal end edge of the narrow-section of the shaping layer by a narrow-end distance of at least a minimum of about 30 mm,

17. (Original) An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said narrow-section of the shaping layer includes a pair of laterally opposed side edges which are substantially parallel to each other.

18. (Original) An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said shaping layer includes at least about 5 wt% superabsorbent material and not more than about 75 wt%

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superabsorbent material,

19. (Original) An article as recited in claim 1, wherein
said shaping layer has a shaping-layer basis weight of at least about 100 g/m²
and not more than about 400 g/m², a shaping-layer density of at least
about 0.06 g/cm³ and not more than about 0.3 g/cm³, a shaping-layer
total absorbent saturation capacity of at least about 5 grams and not
more than about 30 grams of menses simulant A, and a shaping-layer
area of at least about 100 cm² and not more than about 150 cm²; and
said intake layer has an intake-layer density which is less than the shaping-
layer density, has an intake-layer total absorbent capacity which is less
than the shaping-layer total absorbent capacity, and has an intake-layer
area which is less than the shaping-layer area.

20. (Original) An article as recited in claim 17, wherein said shaping layer includes a
stabilized airlaid, fibrous material having binder fiber therein.

21. (Original) An article as recited in claim 17, wherein said intake layer includes a
stabilized airlaid, fibrous material having binder fiber therein.

22. (Original) An article as recited in claim 17, wherein said article further includes
asymmetric narrow-section-wings